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Clearwater National Forest
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Orofino, ID 83544
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NEWS RELEASE - FIRE UPDATE

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DATE: September 9, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST:

The Meadow Fire, located 12 airline miles southeast of Elk City in the Red River area, is currently 6,400 acres and 5% contained. Resources include 197 personnel (five 20-person crews including 2 hot shot crews), 1 feller buncher, 1 dozer, 1 skidgine, 4 engines, 3 water tenders and 2 excavators.

Crews will continue with hazardous fuel reduction activities around residences and private land. Direct attack on the fire's edge with handline, supported by a skidgine (rubber-tired skidder with a water tank) as well as feller buncher and excavator line construction will continue where it can be done safely. Fireline construction will be the main objective on the northwest flank of the fire, focusing on tying together road systems and past harvest units in the event that the fire becomes more active in moving towards residences.

For public safety, an area closure is in effect that includes roads and trails in the vicinity of the Meadow Fire. Access to the forest will be closed at the following locations: Forest Road 234 (except to local residents) and the Magruder Corridor (Montana Road) at the Red River Ranger Station; Poet Creek on the east side of the Magruder Corridor; and Black Hawk Mountain.

Turman's Type 2 Incident Management Team is managing the Meadow Fire and the Incident Command Post is based out of the Red River Ranger Station. For more information on the Meadow Fire, please contact Information Officer Mike Cole at (208) 842-9225.

Red River District reported 3 new suppression fires and 1 new WFU fire (Short Fire). At the time of this update, the district had 5 fires staffed and contained and 2 fires suppressed. The Baker Fire, located 4 miles southwest of the Elk City Township, is 25 acres.

Moose Creek District reported 5 new suppression fires, they are all staffed and ¼ of an acre or less. **A new trail closure is in effect due to the Mink WFU Fire – Highline Ridge Trail #626 is closed at the junction with Otter Creek Trail #621 and ending at the junction with Jim's Creek Trail #601.**

Clearwater Ranger District reported 2 new fires – the Sourdough Fire is ½ acre and the Clear Creek Fire is ¼ acre and they are both staffed.

Salmon River District reported 1 new fire in the Baking Powder area – smokejumpers are on that fire.

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST:

Powell District – 7 new fires reported – 4 WFU fires and 3 suppression fires staffed. The WFU Rabbit Fire is 1500 acres and active.

North Fork District – 2 new suppression fires reported and staffed (Ice and Cool Creek Fires – 1/10 of an acre each) and 1 new WFU fire – (Larson Point at ¼ acre).

Lochsa District – No new fires reported. No change on the Milepost 128 Fire.

Several wildland fire use fires in the Clearwater National Forest's backcountry are being allowed to burn to improve forest conditions and big-game habitat. Information about these fires is posted on the Forest's website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater>.

For public safety, additional road and trail closures remain in effect. Specific information is posted at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/VisitorInfo/Assets/travel_info.

HEAVENS GATE COMPLEX

The Heaven's Gate Complex is currently 28,800 acres. It is 50% contained with a full containment date projected for November 15.

The Complex is currently made up of four fires: The Black Butte Fire is located in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness east of Riggins and is estimated at 24,100 acres including the Plummer Spot. The three fires west of Riggins are in the vicinity of the Seven Devils and Heaven's Gate. The Green Acres Fire is estimated at 4,380 acres; Horse Heaven Fire is estimated at 60 acres; and McCrea Creek Fire is estimated at 260 acres.

Current Resources: Two Type 1 hotshot crews, two Type 2 crews, fifteen engines & water tenders, two dozers, six helicopters and 278 total personnel are assigned to the fire.

Reconnaissance flights and water bucket drops will continue on all fires as conditions allow. Green Acres, Horse Heaven, and McCrea: Green Acres will continue to be active inside the Hells Canyon Wilderness in Sheep Creek. These fires will be patrolled by air.

Black Butte: The goal is to keep all fire movement below Road 394. Crews will continue to prepare eight miles of line for burnout along Roads 394 & 9916 and Trail 121. This action is necessary to contain this fire and prevent it from moving west towards Riggins. Crews will continue to provide structure preparation as needed, as the fire progresses west along the Salmon River or north towards Florence. The structure preparation in Gasper Creek will continue today. Crews will continue checking for spot fires along the Big Salmon River Road and Road 394 on the western flank.

There are two area closures in effect due to the Black Butte Fire in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness and the Green Acres Fire in the Hells Canyon Wilderness. For detailed descriptions and maps, please call local Forest Service offices or visit our website below.

Grant's Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team is managing the complex with the Incident Command Post located in Riggins. Please contact Information Officer Ted Pettis at (208)

628-3589 for further information regarding the Heavens Gate Fire Complex.

OTHER AGENCIES

Maggie Creek (IDL) reported a 1 ½ acre fire. Craig Mountain (IDL), CPTPA , and BLM reported no new fires.

Additional information regarding the current status of fires and related closures is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc> or <http://www.inciweb.org>

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